THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAJMANGAL PANDE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In August 1987, the Government of Assam had informed Central Government that they had identified 500 acres of land in the Napam area near Tezpur for location of the proposed Central University in Assam.

Exploitation of indigenous oil reserves

562. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) how much foreign exchange is being spent at present annually on the import of petroleum products;

(b) how much foreign exchange is required to explore the indigenous reserves to make India self-sufficient in this field;

(c) whether there is any plan for the purpose; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): (a) The total foreign exchange to be spent during the year 1990-91 for the import of petroleum products is estimated to be more than Rs. 4500 crores.

(b) to (d) Exploratory efforts made in sedimentary basing of India have resulted in establishing 5.7 billion tonnes of geological reserves of hydrocarbons. In order to further increase the inventory of reserves to 6.14 billion tonnes by the terminal year of the 6th Plan ONGC and OIL propose to undertake an intensive programme of survey and exploration during the 8th Plan period. As the 8th Plan is still to be finalised, the outlays towards the exploration effort of ONGC & OIL are still unknown. The Government is also considering inviting the participation of Indian and international oil companies in the exploration of hydrocarbons in India.

Survey of oil reserves in the Himalayan and the North-Eastern Regions

563. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of petroleum reserves in the Himalayan and North-Eastern Regions of India;

(b) whether complete survey has been undertaken in these regions in this behalf;

(c) the period upto which these reserves are likely to last; and

(d) what would be the exploration cost?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): (a) As a result of the exploratory efforts made by ONGC and OIL geological reserves of 954.47 milion tonnes of oil and 280.83 billion standard cubic meters of gas have been established in the North-Eastern Region. However, in the Himalayan basin no hydrocarbon reserves have yet been established. Having due regard to its prospectivity the exploratory effort in the Himalayan region is continuing.

(c) No, Sir.

(c) After accounting for the recoverable reserves already produced, the balance recoverable reserves of oil are likely to last a little over 20 years, if produced at the current rate.

(d) Exploration cost depends on the cost of Surveys, cost of data processing and interpretation, and exploratory and delineation drilling and

varies according to the intensity and degree of sophistication of the techniques used. This varies from basin to basin and area to area depending upon the subsurface geology and logistic of the area. Averaging of such exploration costs over a region would therefore be meaningless.

Monitoring of Kendriya Vidyalayas

664. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what system has been adopted by Government to monitor the working of Kendriya Vidyalayas in different parts of the country;

(b) what are the details of technical education being provided in these Vidyalayas ; and

(c) whether there is any plan to remove religious aspect of the syllabus at the primary and higher levels of education?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAJMANGAL PANDE): (a) Monitoring of working of Kendriya Vidyalayas in different parts of the country is done by Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangahan through Regional Offices by regular inspections.

(b) Technical education is not a subject in Kendriya Vidyalayas.

(c) There are no such contents which need to be removed.

Tehri Dam

565. SHRI KRISHANA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that renowned seismologist Dr. James N. Brune of Nevada University has not only questioned the clearance given to the Tehri Dam but has also opined that the site is most prone to earthquakes and has suggested certain changes in its design;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI BABANRAO DHAKNE): (a) and (b) Prof. James N. Brune of the University of Nevada, USA, in a letter, addressed to one of the Members of the High Level Committee of Experts, constituted by the Government on the issue of safety of Tehri Dam, questioned the basis of calculation of Peak Ground Acceleration adopted for the Tehri Dam, which would necessitate changes in the design of the Project.

(c) The views expressed by Prof. J. N. Brune were referred by the Government to the High Level Committee of Experts. The Committee, after detailed deliberations and consideration of the comments of Prof. Brune, was of the opinion that the conclusions and recommendations arrived at earlier certifying the safety of the Tehri Dam, did not call for any medification. As one of the members of the Committee did not agree with the majority conclusion, the opinion of an eminent Expert Seismologist was obtained. He has confirmed the findings of the High Level Committees of Experts and opined that the design of Tehri Dam as adopted is quite safe against the strongest earthquake in the region.

Scheme for distribution of LPG through pipelines in Agartala

566. SHRI NARAYAN KAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of a scheme submitted by Tripura Government for the distribution of LPG through pipelines in the Municipal area of Agartala town;